

SLO COUNTY  
PLANNING/BUILDING  
DEPT

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Ryan Hostetter  
Supervising Planner  
County of San Luis Obispo  
976 Osos Street; Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Ms. Hostetter:

Would you please forward this letter to the County of San Luis Obispo Planning Commission? It is about the safety of the Stenner Creek Railroad Bridge relative to the Phillips 66 track proposal.

County of San Luis Obispo  
Planning Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I attended your April 15, 2016 meeting about the Phillips 66 track proposal, and became alarmed about what I heard relative to bridge safety. Phillips 66 and Union Pacific's presentation, in my professional opinion, was totally inadequate.

It seems to me that the eminent domain of public safety and security is paramount, and demands complete information.

My particular concern is that safety of the Stenner Creek Railroad Bridge. This bridge is a testament to the ability of its 19th century designers and builders, but there are questions that need to be answered, and documents provided. Before I present my list of documents that would help to evaluate the current safety of this bridge, let me share the following:

The bridge was built approximately 130 years ago. It is located next to and above the City of San Luis Obispo water treatment plant at the paved end of Stenner Creek Road. It's important to note that the Nacimiento Pipeline runs into this plant. Additionally, the plant is adjacent to Cal Poly land at its northwest boundary. The bridge is over 100 feet high at its center span. If for any reason, the bridge or its tracks were to fail, the massive tanker cars would fall 100 feet and would cause an explosion that would be catastrophic. In my opinion, it would kill many people and would likely destroy the City's water treatment plant.

I note that The Tribune article of April 11, 2016 is what brought me to your April 15 meeting. This article discusses the position of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisorial candidates relative to the Phillips 66 project. At this time they oppose the project, with one candidate's opposition conditional.

The article noted that Debra Peterson could not support the project because Union Pacific stated that the rails would not support any more Amtrak trains. She was told this when she sat on the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments. She also has health and safety concerns.

My list of additional documents that need to be provided to determine the safety of the Stenner Creek Bridge:

Union Pacific must submit the following to the County of San Luis Obispo Planning Commission and MRS:

1. As built drawings of the Stenner Creek Bridge;
2. Specifications of steel, masonry, and concrete used (19<sup>th</sup> century steel is different than 21<sup>st</sup> century steel);
3. Load (weight) used for the railway cars and engines;
4. Design calculations with all design stresses and factors of safety used;
5. All inspection and maintenance reports showing rust, rivet failure, and possible metal fatigue.

There are very capable engineers in the community that could assist MRS with the evaluation of the documents.

If for any reason Union Pacific or Phillips 66 declines the submittal, then I would recommend rejection of the proposal, as the critical information needed to determine the safety of the bridge cannot be evaluated.

Respectfully,



John W. Edmisten, C.E.  
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